

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03782 071013Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 DODE-00 NSAE-00 ICA-20 TRSE-00 SOE-02

DOE-15 CIAE-00 NEA-10 OPIC-06 ISO-00 /062 W

-----042457 080651Z /23

R 070730Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8591

INFO USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS BEIRUT 3782

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ESTC, LE

SUBJECT: INFO AND RECOMMENDATION ON CAPITAL INC., S.A.R.L., BEIRUT

REF: (A) STATE 151734, (B) STATE 084791.

1. SUBJECT FIRM ESTABLISHED OCTOBER 1977 AS A COMPANY WITH LIMITED LIABILITY WITH PAID IN CAPITAL OF 355,000 LEBANESE POUNDS. IT IS OWNED AND MANAGED BY FRED SEIKALY (U.S. CITIZEN), EDWIN LIAN, KHALIL ABDUL KARIM, RAZEK AND HENRY MAMARBACHI (ALL LEBANESE). FIRM ENGAGES IN THE LOCAL MANUFACTURE OF TAPE CASSETTES AND CARTRIDGES. IT IMPORTS BULK MAGNETIC TAPES AND CASSETTE LOADERS MAINLY FOR ITS OWN USE. FIRM REPORTS THAT IT ACTS AS AGENT OF THE FOLLOWING: AMPEX WORLD OPERATIONS S.A., ATHENS, GREECE FOR MAGNETIC TAPES; TAPE TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY, MILAN, ITALY FOR CASSETTE LOADERS; BOTH ACQUIRED IN 1978.

2. FIRM IS NEWLY ESTABLISHED AND NOT YET KNOWN TO LOCAL BUSINESSES. FIRM'S SENIOR MEMBER, FRED SEIKALY, IS FAVORABLY KNOWN TO THIS EMBASSY AS OWNER OF BEIRUT EXPRESS CO., A LOCAL FREIGHT FORWARDING FIRM WHICH REPRESENTS U.S. FORWARDERS AND TRAVEL AGENCIES.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: CAPITAL INC. WOULD APPEAR UNDER NORMAL UNCLASSIFIED

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CIRCUMSTANCES TO BE AN ACCEPTABLE PARTICIPANT UNDER THE DIP-625P PROCEDURE. EMBASSY NOTES TWO POINTS RELEVANT TO THIS APPLICATION:

(1) PHYSICAL SECURITY FOR WAREHOUSING IN BEIRUT AREA CANNOT BE GUARANTEED AND RISK OF LOOTING IN THE EVENT OF RENEWED CIVIL DISORDERS CANNOT BE DISCOUNTED. ANYTHING LOOTED COULD BE

MADE AVAILABLE TO UNFRIENDLY PARTIES. WHILE CHANCES OF SUCH AND OCCURRENCE ARE SMALL, THEY HAVE INCREASED WITH BREAKDOWN OF GENERAL SECURITY THIS WEEK.

(2) BEIRUT IS A CENTER FOR ILLEGAL REPRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF FEATURE FILM AND VIDEOTAPED TELEVISION PROGRAM (REFTEL B). IN RESPONSE EMBASSY'S WTDR REQUEST, SPOKESMAN FOR CAPITAL INC. GAVE PARA (1) INFORMATION WITHOUT MENTION VIDEOTAPE OR COMPUTER-RELATED EQUIPMENT CITED ON DIB-625P APPLICATION. IN CONVERSATION WITH ECONOFF LATE JUNE, MR. LIAN STATED HIS INTENTION TO SELL VIDEOTAPE PRODUCTS TO FOREIGNERS INCLUDING COMPANIES IN GULF ARAB STATES. HE AGREED TO PROVIDE NAMES OF POTENTIAL CLIENTS BUT TO DATE HAS NOT DONE SO. WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THIS OR ANY OTHER COMPANY, WE NOTE FOR THE RECORD THAT ANY COMPANY WITH A FULL RANGE OF VIDEO EQUIPMENT AT ITS DISPOSAL IN BEIRUT WOULD HAVE CAPABILITY OF ENTERING OR SUPPLYING LUCRATIVE BUSINESS IN UNCOPY-RIGHTED TV PROGRAM REPRODUCTION AND SALES.

4. WTDR ON CAPITAL INC. S.A.R.L. IS UNDER PREPARATION AND WILL BE FORWARDED TO USDOC ASAP.

PARKER

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BUSINESS FIRMS, NAME CHECKS (SECURITY)
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Draft Date: 07 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Action: n/a
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Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780280-0509
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780788/aaaacvqt.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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